

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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May 20, 2016

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**LED bulbs: better lighting, lower energy bills:** Beginning on May 16, the Department of Public Works began changing out nearly 1400 orange-colored high pressure sodium cobra-head street lights on main roads throughout town and replacing them with LED lights.

The net cost (after utility rebates) to the Town is about \$260,000. Total energy savings will be about 60% or about \$75,000 annually in electricity, lower maintenance expense and better quality light. The energy savings will pay back the initial investment in about 3.5 years. Funding for this improvement comes from town's Capital Improvement Energy Conservation fund.

Please note, 'No Parking' signs will be posted in the areas where crews will be working.

**Annual Police Awards:** The West Hartford Police Department held its awards ceremony today recognizing the exceptional efforts of its police force and residents who assisted. Forty-eight police officers, two public safety dispatchers and six residents were honored. Two members of the department were recognized for their length of service. The ceremony is held each year during National Police Week.

The American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 recognized West Hartford Police Detective Benjamin Delmonte as the "**2016 Police Officer of the Year.**" Each year the American Legion honors one individual who is selected by fellow officers for upholding high moral, ethical and professional standards and for efforts that go above and beyond the call for duty. Recipients of the Police Officer of the Year award are considered the department's "ideal officers."

**Senior Center gets Best of Hartford Award:** The West Hartford Senior Center in Bishops Corner was recently named 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up in the Senior Services category of the Best of Hartford Magazine 2016 competition. Senior Center Director Gina Marino said, "We are so thrilled with the voters' enthusiasm for our

Senior Center and we appreciate their votes. We will continue to provide creative, engaging, informative educational activities and experiences for our senior center community."

**DPW Open House:** The Department of Public Works will hold its 4th annual Open House on Saturday, May 21, 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM, at 17 Brixton Street, in observance of National Public Works Week.

At the event children can sit in big trucks, while adults safely shred confidential papers, learn about disposing of household hazardous waste, and get their trash and recycling questions answered. Attendees can enter a free drawing for 5 yards of color-enhanced mulch.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the West Hartford Food Pantry to help a neighbor in need.

**Crime Rate Down:** West Hartford Police is reporting that crime rates over the past five years have decreased by 12% according to a five-year report issued recently by Connecticut's National Incident-Based Reporting System (CTNIBRS)

The report indicated that thefts from unlocked vehicles and shoplifting were the most common types of crime reported in West Hartford. The most common complaint and concern from residents continues to be neighborhood traffic.

The West Hartford Police is reminding residents to lock their cars, pocket the keys, and drive responsibly.

**Memorial Day events:** The [annual Memorial Day Parade](#) will be held on Monday, May 30 at 10:00 AM. A memorial ceremony immediately follows the parade. Please note, there is no on-street parking along the parade route.

On Saturday, May 28 at 8:30 AM, flags will be installed on the graves of 1200 veterans at Fairview Cemetery. Volunteers are needed.

Ronald F. Van Winkle  
Town Manager